

At a later stage, he pointed out that the question of the Commission was addressed to \vas one of statesmanship and statesmanship required ideas e\en theories

"In the English language—especially on the lips of men—'theorist' is generally used as a term of abuse. It ought to be the highest term of praise 'practical' reall)

Later on another coal-owner, Mr Forgie, took him on

"Private ownership is, of course, impossible \without profit? "

"Very likely I should not necessarily have condemned it in that way, but it may be so "

"And you are absolutely against profit making? "

"No I merely suggested that it \vas a rather low and co-rupting motive and that there \vere better motives on \which we might rely, increasingly, but, of course, \ve are all strangely mixed, and I do not say that we can entirely free ourselves from profit making "

What he did unsparingly condemn \vas the chaos in the industry "When asked whether there \vas ' any system \which was not chaotic?" he replied,

"Any system which is not unified is chaotic The \very basis of the private ownership of collieries is the competition and jostling of one with another "

"Is not all improvement brought about in that way?

"No, or very little improvement, in my opinion "

This is not the place in \which to re-tell, in any detail, the tragically familiar story of the miners⁹ betrayal The Sankey Commission, as everyone knows, on the second part of its task issued four reports The four were, however, unanimous on two very important points

First, the coal measures should be acquired by the State, to which should be transferred, therefore, all royalties, mineral rights, and wayleaves

Second, for the distribution of coal, the

machinery of
local authorities and the Co-operative Societies
ought to be
further utilised